



# **Science, Strategy and Sustainable Solutions, a collaboration on the directions of e-infrastructure**

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**eIRG workshop  
22 May 2013**



## The Business of Research

- Publicly funded research communities make significant investments in E-infrastructure that must be justified
- To be justified these investments must shown a clear impact for the research communities
- To gauge the impact, this *market of end-users* must be well understood by funding agencies and e-infrastructure services providers



## User Forum

- A pan-European forum for organisations and projects that operate at an international level
- Present to the policy makers and the infrastructure providers where there are common needs and opinions and where there is divergence
- Independent of any supplier and engage across research domains



## Existing e-infrastructure user engagement

- **e-IRG**: country representatives for e-infrastructure policy
- **EGI**: National Grid Initiatives (NGI's)
- **GEANT**: National Research Networks (NRENs)
- **TERENA**: NRENs, large users and commercial providers
- **PRACE**: Supercomputer users
  
- eIRG 2012 roadmap highlighted the need for *“a single organisation with a central role for user communities with a particular emphasis on involving large, advanced and well-organised user communities at a European level and beyond.”*
- and that *“On the strategic level user communities will have to organise themselves to drive the long-term strategy.”*



## Membership

- The ESFRI cluster projects (BioMedBridges, CRISP, DASISH, ENVRI)
- The EIROforum members
- The new Flagship Projects for Horizon 2020 (Human Brain Project, Graphene)
- The ERF (European Association of National Research Facilities) that will provide representation of national research infrastructures across Europe

The individuals chosen should be able to represent the needs of the end-users supported by these organisations and projects

A number of open and widely publicized User Forum events will be organized where the work can be presented and additional input solicited from a wider community



## Topics to be addressed

Strategic topics concerning e-infrastructures include, but are not limited to:

- The growth of demand and expectations of infrastructure and services
- The value of a proposed service or infrastructure to the community
- Interoperability and Sustainability
- Identifying inhibitors to use (regulatory, procurement, legal, technical)
- Sharing of best practices and successful approaches
- Collaboration and creation of common services
- Creation of common understanding between service providers and users
- “user aggregation” of needs with respect to working with industry



## Candidate Common Service Needs

- Single sign-on: consistent access to resources
- Virtual organisations (collaboration)
- Persistent storage: long-term preservation of data and its access
- Data Management services
- Standards – web services
- Workflows – support of access to HPC/grid/network resources (compute and data) across Europe
- Training
- Global scope: beyond Europe

User Forum is not a technical body but will provide input to solution providers





## Deliverables

This body will provide input to e-infrastructure projects, the European Commission and national funding agencies as well as scientific communities themselves. In particular it may be expected to:

- Prioritise and publish issues facing the scientific communities in the areas of e-infrastructures
- Maintain a database of contact information
- Provide information on the potential for a service in terms of market size and likely adoption
- Organise representative input from the scientific communities through workshops and polls
- Participate in strategic discussions with e-infrastructure providers
- Participate and provide input on strategic directions from the scientific community for the European Commission and national funding agencies





## Recent Examples of User Coordination

- **FIM4R** - A series of workshops to investigate Federated Identity Management for Research (FIM4R) collaborations
- **Helix Nebula** – hybrid cloud computing model engaging commercial cloud service suppliers with GEANT & EGI
- **CRISP workshop** - IT requirements for the next generation research infrastructures bring together Research Infrastructure and IT industry



## Next Steps

- Decide on an initial coordination team to bootstrap the activities
- Approach relevant individuals to gauge the level of interest
- Host an initial meeting to refine the terms of reference
- Appoint a chairman and organizing panel
- Disseminate the terms of reference and present the activity to relevant bodies



## Summary

- eIRG 2012 roadmap highlighted the need for *“a single organisation with a central role for user communities with a particular emphasis on involving large, advanced and well-organised user communities at a European level and beyond.”*
- and that *“On the strategic level user communities will have to organise themselves to drive the long-term strategy.”*

*“The purpose of this proposed user community body is to provide timely, relevant and coordinated information to the current and future e-infrastructure activities, in order to synthesize the trends, discontinuities and emerging needs of the European research community”* – David Foster (CERN)

See document *“Science, Strategy and Sustainable Solutions, a collaboration on the directions of e-infrastructure (S4)”* <https://cds.cern.ch/record/1545615>

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